

# Krab KRONICLE



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Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq



YASHINSKI AVE

## THE MAKING OF A MEMORIAL

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## On the cover...

A sign marking the street named for U.S. Army Sgt. Michael E. Yaschinski stands guard at an intersection on Kirkuk Regional Air Base. Yaschinski Ave. is one of the streets named to memorialize the fallen Soldiers and Airmen of Kirkuk Regional Air Base and Forward Operating Base Warrior. The setting sun in the background signals the end of one of the signs first days in place. (U.S. Air Force photo illustration by Tech. Sgt. Ken Sloat)

Be Seen...Be Safe

Always wear something reflective at night

506th Air Expeditionary Group  
Editorial Staff

Col. Ed Daniel  
506th AEG Commander

Tech. Sgt. Ken Sloat  
Editor/Chief, Public Affairs

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## A fallen Soldier, a fellow Soldier: a true honor to serve

By Capt. Brandi McBride  
*506th Expeditionary Services Squadron Commander*

I've heard a quote for the last few weeks from a servicemember stranded here from the last rotation as he awaits news of his departure date home.

"Happy to be here, proud to serve" is how it goes.

I'm sure there's some truth to it, but after six months in Iraq there's probably some sarcasm too.

But that quote has been ringing in my ears ever since Friday morning when the mortuary team was notified that two American soldiers had been killed in a vehicle accident.

My first thought was actually a prayer for two mothers somewhere in the world who would learn in the next 24 hours that their sons had been killed in Iraq. The next time they would see them would be at the back end of a C-130 carried out in a flag-draped transfer case.

My second thought was for my team. For the nine individuals that would, no doubt, see things today that they've never seen before. And I thought about how they would react to it and how it would affect them.

I had no doubt that they would get the job done and do an absolutely professional job at it, but each case is different and obviously they have an impact on each of us.

These two Soldiers would make our seventh and eighth cases since we got here in September. The team showed up in a moment's notice - as we're always required to do- ready to work together, ready to get the job done.

The team was ready to focus on the mission at hand, but I think we were all a little anxious on this one, not really knowing what we were about to see. We knew there was a fire, and I think that knowledge put everyone a little on edge.

There is no "standard" mortuary case, especially in this environment, but some are certainly less difficult than others. We knew today that would not be the case. We arrived at our mortuary facility and processed the remains, one at a time.

This job is the hardest thing a Services troop will ever be asked to do, but it is also one of the most rewarding.

There is an intense sense of pride to have the responsibility of taking care of a fellow servicemembers last moments in Iraq, before the casket is closed, and they are transported to their final resting place. You would never know from the amount of care these fallen members of our team received, that they were no longer alive.

This team is truly professional and efficient with the tasks they are asked to perform. They always get the job done, and done well. As with any mortuary case, we only have one chance to get it right.

I almost wish other servicemembers or the families of the deceased could see the care that goes into the behind-the-scenes details of prepping their loved one's remains for transportation. It's really just an incredible scene. It's quite comforting to know that even as strangers, we're fellow Americans, and we're fellow soldiers and when it really matters, we're taking care of each other like any family would.

The services troops assigned to the mortuary team are trained to lodge personnel. They're trained to feed personnel. And they've learned how to offer top-notch morale programs in the deployed environment.

But they haven't been trained to handle the trauma that war is subjecting them to. And this team has seen more than their fair share since we hit the ground.

Kirkuk Regional Air Base is the only base in the CENTAF area of responsibility where the Air Force is the lead agent for mortuary affairs, so this is a rare opportunity.

It's a tremendous experience to see a group of individuals from different sections come together and work so well as a team.

To see a group - usually focused on raising others' morale - try to fight back their own feelings and

struggles to get through such a situation and then completely change their mindset and leave the morgue to go back, in some cases, to the clamtina to set up for bingo just hours later.

I couldn't be more proud to lead a group of individuals that have such presence of mind, such caring and professionalism in handling these incredibly tough situations.

It's our daily focus to get the word out about all the programs and services we provide, because that's our job: to take care of the morale of the base.

But sometimes it's what's not said, what's not talked about, that gives those of us that are involved, the greatest fulfillment in serving in this war.

A job that none of us asked for, but one that must be done, and a job that I couldn't be more "proud to serve".

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**"I couldn't be more proud to lead  
a group of individuals that have  
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and professionalism in handling  
these incredibly tough situations."**

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**Capt. Brandi McBride**  
**Services Squadron Commander**

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## The Enlisted Force, Without Exception the Most Educated, Highly Skill Enlisted Force in the World!

By Chief Master Sgt. David Lorenz  
506th Air Expeditionary Group  
Command Chief Master Sgt.

Anyone who knows me knows I love being enlisted.

So, as a Chief I am often asked "What makes being enlisted so great?" I think one of the greatest things about being enlisted is the fact that the enlisted force is without exception, the most educated and technically trained enlisted force in the world!

Think about it, twenty five years ago, we enlisted into the Air Force because we *did not* have a college education—in fact some did not have a high school education.

As chief of a tech school, I frequently ask my new Airmen why they enlisted into the Air Force.

The two most popular answers: "to serve my country", and "to get my college education". Here are few reasons today's Airmen are the best in the world.

First, it is extremely important to understand that our enlisted are Airmen first, rather than merely specialists.

This is hammered home in Basic Military Training (BMT). We've recently increased our BMT training to 7 1/2 weeks with emphasis on the Expeditionary Air Force—in fact our new recruits (they are not Airmen until they graduate) receive a M16 rifle on day 3 and master safe handling, component identification, field strip & cleaning, and the Manual of Arms. Each recruit will maintain their rifle while in BMT.

Second, active duty enlisted are in training from start to finish.

Each Air Force Specialty Code has a technical training school and a Career Development Course that must be completed. These courses provide introductory hands-on training in general areas of expertise. Once completed, the Airman will receive numerous hours of on-the-job training by supervisors and unit training managers.

Emphasis in OJT is placed on the actual duties that they will perform day to day.

Third, while our Airmen gain expertise, they are also earning college credit from the only DoD sanctioned enlisted college—the Community College of the Air Force.

No other branch of service is authorized to confer Associate Degrees—law passed by Congress.

What does the CCAF degree do for our Airman? It is very similar to what a trade school offers civilians. Airmen receive their technical training through approved schools and master subject matter such as oral comm. - Airman need to express verbal & written comms. Math; Humanities; Social Science; and Leadership, Management & Military Studies - Airmen must learn to lead people and manage resources to advance in their military career.

Fourth, Professional Military Education is key to making us the most educated enlisted force.

It begins with Senior Airman and Airman Leadership School. Next, Tech. Sergeants attend the Noncommissioned Officer Academy followed by Master Sergeants attending Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy and finally, Chief Master Sergeants attend the Chief Leadership Course designed specifically for Chief Master Sergeants.

Spaced strategically between these Professional Military Education courses, active duty enlisted attend base level Professional Enhancement Courses.

Take a look at the Enlisted Force Development chart. You will see that an enlisted career is packed with formal training—note that the chart does not take into account the ancillary and specialized training that our enlisted force must also complete.

Fifth, college education. As I mentioned, a frequent response was "to get my college education". Over 75% of our enlisted have or are working toward a degree.

Ask Tech. Sgt. Szudera, Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Learnign Readiness Center here how many enlisted are actively pursuing some level of college education right here at the KRAB—in a combat zone!

As I review enlisted performance reports, it never fails to amaze me how much the responsibilities of our Airmen have grown and how much off-duty education is completed.

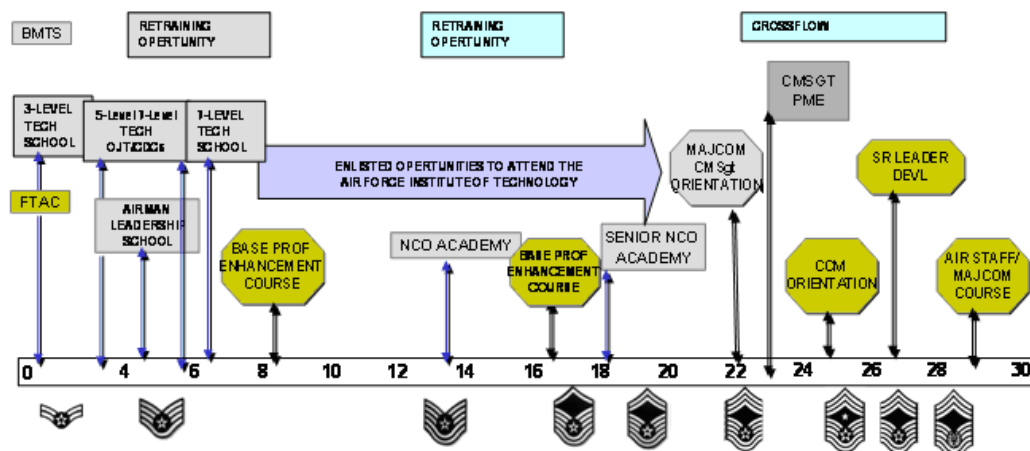
Piece in their volunteerism and our Airmen are truly incredible!

I invite you to stop in my office sometime, or catch me when I am out and about...ask me why I am proud to be enlisted.

I warn you, my answer is not brief!

As your Command Chief Master Sgt., I am extremely proud of each Airman I have been entrusted with and look forward to continuing to serve the 506th Air Expeditionary Group and the most educated, highly skilled enlisted force in the world!

## Enlisted Force Development





# Visit from above

By Tech. Sgt. Ken Sloat  
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

The 506<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group chapel team hosted the United States Central Command Air Forces Command Chaplain and the USCENTAF Chaplain's Assistant Functional Manager for several days in November as the senior leadership team made a scheduled visit to Kirkuk Regional Air Base to review the 506<sup>th</sup> AEG chapel programs.

Col. Stephen L. Frick, USCENTAF Command Chaplain and Chief Master Sgt. Charles D. Johnson, USCENTAF Chaplain Assistant Functional Manager spent three days at KRAB with the chapel team.

They also visited several organizations on base as part of a USCENTAF area of responsibility tour.

The visit - the result of direction from Lt. Gen. Buchanan, USCENTAF Commander - was designed to give the chaplain corps leadership the opportunity to mentor chaplains and chaplain's assistants throughout the AOR and to assist them with making the transition from a parish-based home station



Photo by Senior Airman Kristin Ruleau

**Chaplain (Col.) Stephen L. Frick shakes hands with Tech. Sgt. Yvonne Espinosa, a Laboratory Technician at the 506th Air Expeditionary Medical Services Squadron, deployed from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., while Chief Master Sgt. Charles D. Johnson and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Elwood M. Barnes, 506th AEG Chaplain look on.**

ministry to a visitation-based deployed ministry.

There are differences between the deployed ministry and the home station ministry, said Senior Airman Aaron Smith, 506<sup>th</sup> AEG Chaplain Assistant.

Airman Smith explained that, compared to a home station duty where he might have to concern himself with the administrative side of the chapel, at KRAB he is encouraged to

be away from the office doing squadron visits.

Airman Smith said that here, "It's more about being visible. Father (Chaplain Del Toro) and I go out several times a week," he said.

Part of the reason the Command Chaplain team visited Kirkuk Air Base was to ensure that chaplain's assistants were being used for the chapel's visitation program, said Sgt. Bill Spencer, Chapel Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, deployed from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

"Visitation isn't just a chaplain thing," Col. Frick said. He went on to explain in his memorandum that Chaplain Assistants can be "valuable force multipliers" and should be used as an "integral part" of the chapel's visitation ministry.

At many duty locations, said Sgt. Spencer, the chaplain is the only one to go out and visit units. Here, under the leadership of Chaplain Barnes, chaplain assistants are a vital part of the unit visitation program, said Sgt. Spencer.

He said that each of the chaplains and chaplain assistants have been assigned units that they are responsible for visiting.

Chaplain Frick was impressed that we go out by ourselves," said Airman Smith.

"They loved what they saw here," said Sgt. Spencer.



Photo by Senior Airman Kristin Ruleau

**Senior Airman Aaron Smith, a Chaplain Assistant with the 506th Air Expeditionary Group shows Chief Master Sgt. Johnson an example of the items that have been collected for the School Supplies for Children Program the chapel team is involved in.**

# AEG Commander gets clipped by cops

By Tech. Sgt. Ken Sloat  
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

Members of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group sacrificed their hair November 6 as part of a fundraising effort that netted more than \$3,700 for an Air Force Security Forces member injured in the line of duty.

The fundraiser was started by members of the 506th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron to earn money to help Airmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class Michael Fletcher and his family.

Airman Fletcher, now a patient at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Md. was injured in a High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicle accident while he was deployed as a security forces member to Camp Bucca, Iraq in August.

Airman Fletcher's injuries were severe enough to cause the amputation of his left arm and total loss of sight in his left eye.

Shortly before his injury, he had to deal with being deployed when Hurricane Katrina swept through his hometown of New Orleans, La., devastating it and leaving his family homeless, said Tech. Sgt. Michelle Hackney, Noncommissioned Office in Charge of Supply for the 506th ESFS.

"He's one of the most inspiring people I've met in a long time, said Sgt. Hackney, who was able to visit with Airman

Fletcher shortly before she deployed to Kirkuk Regional Air Base in September.

"He was upbeat and positive," she said.

He was more concerned about his family and the driver of the HMMWV than about himself, she said.

The ESFS supply section managed the month-long project using a large dry erase board to track the votes.

Visitors nominated people for a haircut or shave by pledging one dollar for each vote they wanted to cast, she said.

"The troops really got a kick out of coming in here to see who was in the lead," she said.

It was a popular attraction for many. Several members of the fire department came in one day and asked what it was all about. "They came back the next day with about \$300," she said, "We raised just about \$3,790 so far,"

said Senior Airman Nichole Granger, Equipment Custodian with the 506th ESFS C-Flight and treasurer for the fundraiser.

Our biggest contributors outside of security force members were the fire department, the chapel and the group commander, she said.

The plan is to send the money collected so far in time to arrive before Christmas, she said. "I'm sure it will help over the holidays,"



Photo by Senior Airman Kristin Ruleau

**Airman 1st Class Michael Chapman finishes up the haircut he gave Col. Ed. Daniel, Commander of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group. Col. Daniel was one of three "volunteers" for the fund raiser that netted more than \$3,700 for an Airman injured while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.**

she said.

Most of the people who were nominated for a haircut or shave accepted their fate because it was for charity, said Sgt. Granger, "with the exception of one guy who really didn't want to get his hair cut," she said.

"He put his money on the competition," she said with a smile.

There were about 15 people on the big list competing for votes, said Sgt. Hackney. The three nominees from each list with the most votes were declared winners, she said.

Col. Daniel quickly became a crowd favorite on the haircut list, said Airman Granger. Perhaps not at first, but it wasn't long before people were coming in to vote for him, she said.

Each of the different security forces flights were allowed to assign a barber or shaver of their choice.

We picked Airmen 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Michael Chapman because he is known for giving haircuts around the mods, said Tech. Sgt. Mark Chasteen, Flight Chief of C-flight.

He was the most qualified, Sgt. Chasteen explained.

"He had his own clippers."

*Are you interested in riting for the Krab-Kronicle?*

Story and news submissions are eagerly welcomed. Contact 506 AEG/PA for additional information.



Photo by Senior Airman Kristin Ruleau

**A smiling Col. Ed Daniel, 506th Air Expeditionary Group Commander prepares to look at his new haircut that helped ESFS earn money for an injured Airman.**



# A Veteran's Day for all veterans

By Tech. Sgt. Ken Sloat  
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

The 506<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group and the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, held a joint Veteran's day ceremony here, November 11, to honor veterans. During the ceremony several Soldiers were presented with a shoulder sleeve insignia-former wartime service patch and several Airmen were presented with the division challenge coin.

The ceremony was presided over by Col. David R. Gray, Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team with Col. Ed Daniel, Commander, 506<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group offering the opening remarks.

The history of Veteran's Day goes back to Armistice Day which marks the date when the armistice began that ended fighting between the Allies and the Germans during World War II. It took effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.

In 1978 legislation was signed that changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veteran's Day to honor the sacrifices that all veterans have made.

"All who wear (the uniform) today, or have done so in the past," said Col. Ed Daniel, 506<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group Commander, "are part of the history and tradition that represents the bond among warriors. Warriors that have answered the call to arms," he continued.

"It is those men and women," Col. Daniel said, "that we remember and honor today. Let us keep them in our hearts for all time and carry their spirits with us to the battlefield," he said.

"The military profession is among the most noble of professions," said Col. David R. Gray, Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault). "It is not," he added, "about power, it is not about fame, and it certainly is not about financial rewards. Rather," he explained, "it's about the ideas for which we serve: freedom, honor and country."

"No battle can be won; no side can be victorious; if it's fought by a single individual," he said.

"It is through teamwork that we can collectively accomplish our mission," he said. After his remarks, Col. Gray, and the 1<sup>st</sup> BCT Command Sgt. Maj. Rory L. Malloy, presented the combat patch to several Soldiers chosen to represent all the Soldiers who have earned the patch since the 101<sup>st</sup> arrived at Forward Operating Base Warrior.

The combat patch, worn on the right shoulder, is an optional



Photo by Senior Airman Kristin Ruleau

**Four 506th Air Expeditionary Group Airmen, having been selected to represent the entire AEG, received a 101st Airborne Division challenge coin from Col. David R. Gray, Commander, 1st Brigade Combat Team, currently deployed to Forward Operating Base Warrior.**

item worn to signify a Soldier who has participated in combat and combat operations for more than 30 days.

The Soldiers who have earned the right to wear the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne combat patch will keep that right throughout their entire Army career.

After presenting the combat patch to his soldiers, Col. Gray and Command Sgt. Maj. Malloy presented several Airmen with the Brigade's signature challenge coin.

The Airman, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jeffrey J. Curry, Commander, Mission Systems Flight with the 506<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Communications Squadron, deployed from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.; Master Sgt. Pamela D. Cook, Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Recreation and Fitness for the 506<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Services Squadron, deployed from Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany; Staff Sgt. Arthur N. Koenig, an Engineering Assistant with the 506 Expeditionary Civil Engineers Squadron deployed from Kulis Air National Guard Base, Ak. and Senior Airman Pisit A. Moommala, a Force Protection Escort, deployed from Travis Air Force Base, Calif. were chosen to represent the entire 506<sup>th</sup> AEG, said Master Sgt. Donald W. Scott, 506th AEG First Sergeant.

From the beginning, he said, the Army wanted to incorporate the Air Force into their Veteran's Day ceremony.

"They wanted to do something for the Air Force," he said.

When you look at the big picture it's tough to find a better holiday to celebrate with the Army, he said.

We felt it was a good idea to choose people to represent the tiers within the Air Force rather than specific squadrons, he said. We chose a company grade officer, a senior noncommissioned officer, an NCO and an Airman to represent the entire AEG, he explained.

"They weren't people, they were ranks,"



Illustration by Tech. Sgt. Ken Sloat

Photo by Senior Airman Kristin Ruleau

# AEG: waiting to update PT uniform wear

By Tech. Sgt. Ken Sloat  
*506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs*

The 506<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group is currently reviewing newly released guidance from the October 1, Air Force Uniform Board for possible adaptation at Kirkuk Regional Air Base.

The Uniform Board released changes to policy on the wear of the official Air Force Physical Training uniform and it is likely that some of the changes will have an impact on the members of the 506<sup>th</sup> AEG, said Chief Master Sgt. Dave Lorenz, 506<sup>th</sup> AEG Command Chief Master Sgt.

The personnel of the 506<sup>th</sup> AEG are subject to the policies of USCENTAF and the 332<sup>nd</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing, he explained. Although the Uniform Board's changes apply to all Air Force members it's important to remember, the chief explained, that commanders at the MAJCOM, wing or even group level can make their local policy more stringent.

"We're leaning forward actively seeking guidance from CENTAF", said Chief Lorenz. The Command Chief Master Sgt. at the 332<sup>nd</sup> AEW is already interpreting the policy and determining what our the wing's local adaptation of it will be, he said.

"We expect to hear something within a week," he said.

The area of responsibility policy is established by CENTAF, explained Chief Lorenz. Once that happens, the 332<sup>nd</sup> AEW Command Chief will make the necessary revisions for wing personnel and then we will formulate our revisions, if any, for group personnel, he said.

"Nothing has changed," said Master Sgt. Donald Scott, 506<sup>th</sup> AEG Group First Sgt.

Sgt. Scott went on to explain that 506<sup>th</sup> AEG personnel should continue to follow the guidance detailed in 332<sup>nd</sup> AEW, Air Force Instruction 36-2903, "Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel" dated August 18, 2005.

Some revisions are likely to be adopted.

Although no official decision has been made, Chief Lorenz said that it is likely that some of the Uniform Board changes, such as the lessening of restrictions on the length of sock and type of athletic shoes that can be worn are likely to be acceptable.

Other changes are not likely to ever be adopted in the AOR, he said.

The wear of the PT Uniform with civilian attire is not as likely to ever be acceptable in the AOR, he said.

Chief Lorenz suggested that it is possible that saluting while wearing the PT Gear may be one of the changes

from the Uniform Board that is adopted at Kirkuk Air Base.

Chief Lorenz pointed out that, with the exception of hostile areas, the courtesy of saluting is rarely wrong.

"If you salute when it's not necessary it's not going to be bad," he explained.

Chief Lorenz made it very clear that regardless what changes become effective Air Force wide, it is very unlikely that any changes that lower the overall professional image of the uniform - such as not zipping the jacket fully or tucking in the shirt - will ever be acceptable while wearing the PT uniform at the Dining Facility.





# My last war

## A Viet Nam veteran's final deployment

By Tech. Sgt. Bruce Gazaway

506th Expeditionary Civil Engineers Squadron

On his first deployment he was given the opportunity to go home four months early. Instead, then just nineteen and in the Army, he volunteered for an assignment where life expectancy is measured in seconds. He became a helicopter door gunner and remained in Viet Nam for a total of 28 months.

Arriving in Viet Nam in 1968, fresh from training, Master Sgt. Bruce Larrabee was assigned as a lineman to the 267th Signal Company. "When I jumped off the plane at Long Bins Air Base" he recalled "I was in my dress greens and there was a battle going on. I mean there were bullets flying and I looked around and saw all these Vietnamese walking around and I didn't know if I should tackle them or what?"

When his unit was transferred back to the states he moved to an aviation unit. It was here as one of the four man crew of a helicopter that he found his place in the Army.

"I was the lowest of the low," said Sgt. Larrabee. As the Junior member he was expected to come early, stay late and keep busy the entire time. They treated me like dirt. I loved it."

He loved flying, but like many young men, he was also drawn to the adrenalin rush of combat. "Generally it was 100 minutes of routine and then one minute of 'I'm not going to live,'" said Larrabee. His aviation unit performed the full range of combat activity normal in that war. From providing fire support to ground units, to transporting men or equipment and extracting wounded.

Flying as a door gunner left the young soldier with lessons he has carried through life. One has to do with the importance of following "routine" such as performing checklists. "Your daily routines keep you going when times are tough," said Larrabee, "If you forget the routines then it all falls apart."

His experiences also cleared up some misconceptions.

"Until that time I thought Pilots were the most important", said Larrabee. "That was when I found out that ... the Crew Chief was King. Pilots just rented the plane, but that Crew Chief owned it."

Larrabee returned from Viet Nam in 1970 and eventually found civilian employment with the Air Force as a Wastewater Treatment Operator at Pease Air Force Base, N.H.

He currently works in water and waste treatment for the New Boston Air Force Station located outside of Manchester, New Hampshire. Larrabee joined the New Hampshire Army National Guard in 1984, following a fourteen year break in service. He stayed until reorganization eliminated the unit. He then enlisted in the New Hampshire Air National Guard even though he had to give up a stripe to make the change. According to Larrabee there are some big differences between the Air Force and the Army.

"The Army tends to smack you along side the head to get your attention. They keep stressing to everyone move, shoot, and communicate. In the Army the weapon comes first." "In the Air Force we focus more on just getting our job done," said Larrabee.

In a reversal of the usual process, it was Sgt. Larrabee's civilian job that led to his current military career. He moved into



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ken Sloat

**Master. Sgt. Bruce Larrabee recalls the experience of serving in more than four different decades.**

the utilities career field because of his experience as a civilian in wastewater treatment.

That's fortunate for the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron where it has been a challenge to keep the waste water treatment plant operating .

The Air Force stopped teaching waste water management to the plumbing career field in 1990. Because of that, it is rare to find anyone in the Air Force who knows about wastewater treatment.

There are also many differences between the military today and the military Sergeant Larrabee found in the 1960's. "Women were rare" in Viet Nam, said Larrabee. In those days they could only enlist into the Woman's Army Corps which was a distinct element within the U.S. Army.

"Heck, their barracks were surrounded by a 12 foot chain link fence and that was back in the states." Before there were cassette tape recorders or i-Pods or compact discs, the best thing most Soldiers had was a transistor radio and according to Larrabee "Armed Forces Radio Network was the only radio station in town."

For soldiers AFRN was the primary source of music, weather and news. There are several aspects of the 1960's military that Larrabee misses less than others. One of these was routine assignment to Kitchen Police or KP as it was known duties.

However, KP duty wasn't as bad as the feces burning detail.

"You had to earn that one and I got a week of that job," he reported. "Three times a day you went to the latrine, pulled out the full barrels and replaced them with empty ones, you then mixed the stuff with gasoline or diesel and lit it off. At the end of that week I burned all of my clothes. That stuff stunk.."

Fortunately waste treatment has changed since then.

Another big change over the years has been the public view of the military. "We came back (from Viet Nam) as losers," said Larrabee. "After Operation Desert Storm) we were recognized, people cheered."

Sgt. Larrabee has accumulated more than thirty-eight months in combat deployments during the past five decades.

"This is it, this is my last war," said Larrabee. "I promised my wife this would be my last trip."

# Making a Memorial

## ECES puts signs up to remember fallen heroes

By Tech. Sgt. Ken Sloat  
506th Air Expeditionary Group Public Affairs

It was his favorite holiday.

He looked at his birthday in October as a count down to Christmas. Sergeant Michael E. Yaschinski loved being with his family at that very special time of the year.

"He never missed a Christmas," said his mom, Debora Yaschinski, "even when he was stationed in Italy, except for 2003."

Sgt. Yaschinski called his parents on December 22 to make arrangements for a longer conversation on Christmas, she said. "Instead, on Christmas Day I received two officers who told me 'On behalf of a grateful nation...'" she said.

"My world crushed. My baby, my buddy, my son was gone."

Sgt. Yaschinski was killed in Iraq, December 24, 2003, while running a communication wire near Kirkuk Regional Air Base.

His unit had been part of largest mass combat jump since WWII when, on March 23, 2003, the "Sky Soldiers" of the 173rd Airborne Division landed in the Bashur Drop zone in Northern Iraq.

In the year that followed they set up an attack that caused their enemy to commit forces to the area making it safer for other U.S. troops to move swiftly into Baghdad.

And in that year, nine Soldiers and one Airman gave their lives as they fought here to make that mission a success. They are forever memorialized at Kirkuk Regional Air Base by having streets here named after them.

But, if it weren't for a group of civil engineers here, you might never know that.

We discovered the signs were missing, said Master Sgt. Bryan Lewis, Noncommissioned Officer in charge of Site Development for the 506th Civil Engineering

Squadron, deployed from Kulis ANGB, Ak. Sgt. Lewis admitted it would be almost impossible to figure out why – almost two years after the 173rd left Forward Operating Base Warrior – that the signs heralding their fallen were no longer in place.

It could have been traffic, weather, or maybe they were never even put up, he said. They aren't there and that's wrong, he said.

What matters is what they did about it.

"It's not a matter of if we can do this; it's simply a question of how soon we need to get it done," he said.

As a sight development engineer, Sgt. Lewis prepares maps of the base and assists in designing long-term improvements to the base.

It's not uncommon for him to

be giving someone directions around the base.

It's important that the streets have these names posted, he said. In this case, it's about more than just being able to help people navigate, he said.

These fallen Soldiers deserve to have their name proudly presented. It's the least we can do, he said.

"In engineering," explained Sgt. Lewis, "we do a lot of things that last beyond our presence. We build buildings; we design roads; long after we are gone those things are still there. These signs are one of those things," he said.

For this project, he began by inspecting the sites where the signs should have been.

He discovered that some of the signs that were still in place were either too small to be seen or they were in very poor condition. He was able to determine how many signs would need to be made and how many would require installing new sign posts into the ground, he said.

"We are in the process of making this a better place than it was when we got here. I think every unit is trying to do that," he said.

He knew the memorials could be made better than they had been.

"I tried to strategically place them on busy intersections," he said, explaining that he wanted the new signs to get a lot of attention from people driving by.

"They deserve to have their names boldly represented," he said. We used big white signs with bold black letters, he said, we hope you can't miss them.

Once the engineering was complete, Sgt. Lewis turned the project over to the ECES Structures Section.

It took Senior Airman Joey Nachez, a Structural Journeyman assigned to the 506th ECES, deployed from Pease Air Force Base, N.H., several days to complete the final construction and installation of more than



**Senior Airman Joey Nachez, a Structural Journeyman with the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineers Squadron, deployed from Pease Air Force Base, N.H., works with stencils to complete the lettering on the signs he will later help install at more than 19 locations around base.**





Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ken Sloat

**Senior Airman Joey Nachez, Structural Journeyman deployed from Pease AFB, N.H. and Master Sgt. George Waters, a Structural Craftsman deployed from Kulis ANGB, Ak., both assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, complete the installation of a sign**

20 signs.

He said it took him about two days to cut the wood and get the signs painted while the installation took a full day.

Airman Nachez said he expects the full weight of his contribution to take a little while to become apparent to him. He works every day, he said, and perhaps when he gets

a chance to slow down he'll have time to think about it.

"It's probably something that just hasn't set in yet," he said, "(someday) when I drive by the signs I'll say 'wow, I built that.'"

Airman Nachez was working on November 11 and couldn't go to the joint Army-Air Force Veteran's day ceremony held here near the Warrior Gymnasium.

For others who did attend, it brought the two things together for them.

"It will be one of the days I remember forever," said Sgt. Lewis.

While he was at the veteran's Day ceremony here, his thoughts were drawn to the power of what he and the ECES team had done.

"This is Veteran's Day and we just acknowledged that we have some veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice," he said. We honored them by making sure other people will see their names everyday when they drive by their signs, he said.

Getting these signs up held a special meaning for Staff Sgt. William Welsh, a Structural Craftsman assigned to the 506th ECES and deployed here from the New York Air National Guard at Suffolk County, N.Y.

I think of this is a special gift to the parents, he said, adding that that we shouldn't forget that the parents made a significant sacrifice as well.

Sgt. Welsh. Sgt. Welch, himself a father, pointed out that the parents of these soldiers have lost a part of their family.

"This gift you have given means a lot to me," said Debora Yashinski, mother of Sgt. Michael Yashinski's, one of the Soldiers memorized.

"My son and the rest will not be forgotten"

*Editor's Note: You can get more information on the fallen Soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Division at [www.173rdairborne.com/KIA.htm](http://www.173rdairborne.com/KIA.htm)*



## Tent team raises the roof

Staff Sgt. Ryan Zarick, a Force Protection Escort, assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Civil Engineers Squadron here, assists in the erecting of a Frame Supported Tensioned Fabric Shelter here November 16. The FSFTS will eventually be the new home of the Army Air Force Exchange Service's location at Kirkur Regional Air Base.

***It's never too late to make a difference...***

**Give to CFC**





## VML now available

The Summer 2006 Officer Vulnerable Mover List is now posted in the Assignment Management System.

Commanders can go into AMS and view the officers within their organization who are eligible to PCS.

Official guidance from Air Combat Command and Air Force Personnel Center is forthcoming.

## DFAC Hours of Operation

**Breakfast:** 0530 - 0800,

**Lunch:** 1100 - 1330

**Dinner:** 1700 - 2000,

**Midnight Meal:** 2300 - 0130

## Fiscal Year 2007-2011 Munitions Forecast.

The 506th AEG Munitions Section is at the beginning of the munitions forecast cycle and is requesting organizations or units having a valid munitions requirement for FY07 - FY011 to submit their forecasts.

Contact the 506th AEG Munitions Officer, 1st Lt. Jeff Anderson, at 444-2090 by November 30 with any requirements.

## AMS now web-based

Beginning November 21, the Assignment Management System will not longer be a stand-alone application. Users will no longer be required to access it via [WWW.AFPC.RANDOLPH.AF.MIL/AFPCSECURE/DEFAULT.ASP](http://WWW.AFPC.RANDOLPH.AF.MIL/AFPCSECURE/DEFAULT.ASP).

Commander must delegate their support staff, or Requisition Manager through the AMS system rather than

## Promoted to Capt.



Photo illustration

**Capt. Tina Dauzat**

## Selected for Chief Master Sgt.



**Senior Master Sgt.  
Richard L. Graves**



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ken Sloat

## New sheriff in town

Tech. Sgt. Ed Hempe, Anti-terrorism Force Protection Noncommissioned Officer, assigned to the 506th Expeditionary Air Group, uses a hand-held traffic radar unit to monitor posted speed limits around Kirkuk Regional Air Base, Iraq. Sgt. Hempe, deployed from 16th Security Forces Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla., had a busy evening November 16 enforcing the 10 mile per hour speed limit near the dining and living areas here. The drivers caught exceeding the limit were stopped and will eventually have their personal information reported through their chain of command.



# Culture Gram

## Women in Islam

"Islam is bad for women." This is the prevailing attitude in the West and is frequently displayed in our movies and television programs.

In reality, Islam is an advocate, not a stumbling block, in the advancement of women's rights throughout the world.

Undoubtedly, the oppression of women occurs in Muslim countries, just as it does in many others. When it occurs, however, it is either a reflection of local customs that predate Islam or a chauvinistic interpretation of Islam.

Under *Shari'a*, Islamic law, there are hundreds of laws protecting women's rights. Here are just a few:

- Women cannot be denied an education.
- Forced marriage is prohibited.
- Women can initiate divorce.
- Alimony and palimony are mandatory.
- Women can vote and stand for office.

Both the Qur'an and the Prophet Muhammad attest to the equality of women with men under Islam. According to Muhammad, "Women are the twin halves of men." The Qur'an states that man and woman were created "from a single soul."

In fact, many Muslim women assert that it is Western women that need liberating. In America women are presented as sexual objects with no value other than their physical attributes. By donning the *hijab* or the *abaya*, the headscarf or full-length dress, a Muslim woman can be judged by who she is and not what body parts she is willing to expose to the view of others.

Did you know...?

...there are more women holding elected office in Iran than in the United States.

...under Islamic law, a woman may secretly take money from her husband if he does not provide her enough to care for family needs.

... although rare in practice, Islam does permit polygamy. Husbands must treat each wife equally in every respect including time spent with each wife, housing, financial support and gifts.

Culturgram is courtesy of Capt Matthew Ence, 9 AF/A5, Middle East FAO.

## WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT



### Hometown

Staff Sgt. Thomas A. Smoot-Russell

### Air Force Speciality Code

2S0X1, Supply Management

### What he does at Kirkuk Air Base

Delivers water bottles to a large portion of the base as member of services support team. He also manages Services Squadron equipment account which contains more than \$175,000 worth of equipment used for morale support such as large screen televisions and athletic equipment. He also issues equipment and clothing items.

### Hometown

Baltimore, Maryland

### Home Station

Spangdahlem Air Base Germany

### What is unique about your job at Kirkuk?

Normal duty for Supply Management AFSC would be managing the order and receiving process at a Base Supply warehouse.

# Krab Busters Movie Schedule

## November 21 - December 4

| Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday   | Sunday   |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| <b>21</b><br><b>The Interpreter</b><br>2400,0200, 0400,<br>0600, 0800, 1000,<br>1200, 1400, 1600,<br>1800, 2000, 2200 | <b>22</b><br><b>The Perfect Man</b><br>2400,0145,0330<br>0515,0700,0845<br>1030,1215,1400<br>1545,1730,1915,<br>2100,2245      | <b>23</b><br><b>Guess Who</b><br>2430, 0215, 0400,<br>0545, 0730, 0915,<br>1100, 1245, 1430,<br>1615, 1800, 1945,<br>2130, 2315 | <b>24</b><br><b>Roll Bounce</b><br>0100, 0300, 0500,<br>0700, 0900, 1100,<br>1300, 1500, 1700,<br>1900, 2100, 2300 | <b>25</b><br><b>House of Wax</b><br>0100, 0300, 0500,<br>0700, 0900, 1100,<br>1300, 1500, 1700<br>1900, 2100         | <b>26</b><br><b>Wedding Date</b><br>2400, 0130, 0300,<br>0430, 0600, 0730,<br>0900, 1030, 1200,<br>1330, 1500, last<br>show: 1630<br>Football<br>Game Coverage | <b>27</b> <b>Land of the Dead</b><br>2400,0135, 0305,<br>0435, 0605, 0735,<br>0905, 1035, 1205,<br>1335, 1505, last<br>show: 1635<br>Football Game<br>Coverage |
| <b>28</b><br><b>King's Ransom</b><br>0700,0900,1100,<br>1300,1500,1700,<br>1900,2100,2300                             | <b>29</b><br><b>In Her Shoes</b><br>0100,0230,0400,<br>0530,0700,0830,<br>1000,1130,1300,<br>1430,1600,1730,<br>1900,2030,2200 | <b>30</b><br><b>Monster In-Law</b><br>2400,0300,0600,<br>0900,1200,1500,<br>1800,2100   | <b>1</b><br><b>Stay</b><br>2400,0145,0330<br>0515,0700,0845<br>1030,1215,1400<br>1545,1730,1915,<br>2100,2245      | <b>2</b><br><b>Winter Solstice</b><br>2430,0230, 0430,<br>0630, 0830, 1030,<br>1230, 1430, 1630,<br>1830, 2030, 2230 | <b>3</b><br><b>Million Dollar Baby</b><br>2430, 0330, 0630,<br>0930, 1230, last<br>show: 1530<br>Football Game<br>Coverage                                     | <b>4</b><br><b>Little Manhattan</b><br>2400,0145,0330<br>0515,0700,0845<br>1030,1215,1400<br>1545, last show: 1730<br>Football Game<br>Coverage                |



Nicole Kidman  
Sean Penn  
Catherine Keener



Hilary Duff  
Heather Locklear  
Chris North



Elisha Cuthbert  
Chad Michael Murray  
Brian Van Holt



Debra Messing  
Dermot Mulroney  
Amy Adams



Simon Baker  
John Leguizamo  
Asia Argento



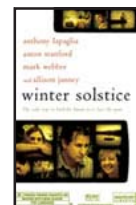
Anthony Anderson  
Jay Mohr  
Loretta Devine



Cameron Diaz  
Toni Collette  
Shirly MacLaine



Ewan McGregor  
Naomi Watts  
Ryan Gosling



Anthony LaPaglia  
Mark Webber  
Aaron Stanford

### Still Playing

